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28 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT: Agency-wide All-source Operations Room

REFERENCE: Action Memorandum No. A-165, 18 Jan 63  
Same Subject

1. In response to your request for my views on the above subject as outlined in the reference memorandum, let me say that I think the proposal ill advised.

2. The reasons for this view are as follows:

a. Such an operations briefing room, I presume, could be for the purpose of providing instantly to the Director up-to-date information on all Agency operations. This would be a vast assignment requiring not only the employment of a fair number of specialized personnel to man the room, but also increased functions to take the time of the people in the operations offices.

b. The most accurate and, I believe, the most prompt information is available in the operations offices themselves or in OCI and other DD/I offices if we are speaking of developments in the world situation. If with the high-speed communications we already have we are not able to provide the information the front office needs, it is difficult to see how an operations room is going to be able to get the information faster. Furthermore, there is the additional hazard that to avoid error the people in the operations room would have to become intimately familiar with the vast array of detail.

3. Speaking of COMOR business and DD/R actions for the Special Group, both of which I have some responsibility for,

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the front office is kept well informed and is responded to as rapidly as possible. An operations room, I doubt, would have a salutary effect in uncluttering such problems as I have now in keeping the front office accurately and promptly advised.

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James Q. Reber  
Special Assistant, DDR

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